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PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. 10002156-1

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR: Steve Jerman**CONFIRMATION NO.: 7976****SERIAL NO.: 09/881,778****GROUP ART UNIT: 2651****FILING DATE: 06/14/2001****EXAMINER: Tzeng, Fred****TITLE: DATA STORAGE METHODS AND APPARATUS**

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS**SIR OR MADAM:**

Please immediately forward this correspondence to Examiner Fred Tzeng.

Claim Summary:

Claims originally present: 1-21.
Claims previously canceled: 17.
Claims previously amended: 2-7, 12, and 19.
Claims hereby amended: 1, 2, 4, and 8.
Claims hereby canceled: 3 and 9.
Claims remaining: 1, 2, 4-8, 10-16, and 18-21.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3 and 9 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 2, 4, 8, as shown below in the following detailed claims listing:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of data storage employing a tape cartridge having a cartridge memory, the method comprising:

storing a cartridge stamp in the cartridge memory;

~~determining if the cartridge stamp has been updated;~~

providing a set of label data stored in the cartridge memory;

updating the set of label data stored in the cartridge memory; and,

updating the cartridge stamp in response to updating the set of label data.

Claim 2 (currently amended). A method of data storage employing a tape cartridge having a cartridge memory, the method comprising:

storing a set of label data and a cartridge stamp in the cartridge memory;

performing a first reading of the cartridge stamp;

performing a second reading of the cartridge stamp; and,

looking for a difference in the cartridge stamp between the first reading and the second reading;

updating the set of label data stored in the cartridge memory; and,

updating the cartridge stamp in response to updating the set of label data.

Claim 3 (canceled).

(Continued on next page.)

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1 Claim 4 (currently amended). A method of data storage employing a tape cartridge
2 having a cartridge memory, the method comprising:

3 storing a cartridge stamp, which comprises a real time stamp, in the cartridge
4 memory;

5 determining that the cartridge stamp has been updated; and,

6 reading a set of label data in response to determining that the cartridge stamp
7 has been updated.

8 Claim 5 (previously presented). The method of claim 2, and wherein the cartridge
9 stamp comprises a real-time stamp.

10 Claim 6 (previously presented). The method of claim 2, and wherein the cartridge
11 stamp comprises a randomly selected character.

12 Claim 7 (previously presented). The method of claim 2, and wherein the cartridge
13 stamp comprises a sequentially selected character.

14
15 Claim 8 (currently amended). A method of data storage employing a tape cartridge
16 which has a length of tape with a set of general data stored thereon, and which has a
17 cartridge memory, the method comprising:

18 storing a set of label data and a cartridge stamp, which comprises a real time
19 stamp, in the cartridge memory;

20 updating the set of general data;

21 updating the set of label data as a result of updating the set of general data; and,

22 updating the cartridge stamp as a result of updating the set of general data.

23 Claim 9 (canceled).
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1 Claim 10 (original). A method of data storage employing a tape cartridge which has a
2 cartridge memory with a set of label data stored therein, and which has a length of tape
3 with a set of general data stored thereon, the method comprising:

4 storing a cartridge stamp in the cartridge memory;

5 replacing the set of label data stored in the cartridge memory with an updated set
6 of label data; and,

7 replacing the cartridge stamp stored in the cartridge memory with an updated
8 cartridge stamp in response to replacing the set of label data.

9 Claims 11 (original). The method of claim 10, and further comprising:

10 providing a reader memory; and,

11 storing the cartridge stamp in the reader memory.

12 Claim 12 (previously presented). A method of data storage employing a tape cartridge
13 which has a cartridge memory with a set of label data stored therein, and which has a
14 length of tape with a set of general data stored thereon, the method comprising:

15 storing a cartridge stamp in the cartridge memory;

16 replacing the set of label data stored in the cartridge memory with an updated set
17 of label data;

18 providing a reader memory;

19 storing the cartridge stamp in the reader memory

20 reading the updated cartridge stamp from the cartridge memory;

21 comparing the updated cartridge stamp to the cartridge stamp stored in the
22 reader memory; and,

23 determining that the updated cartridge stamp stored in the cartridge memory
24 does not match the cartridge stamp stored in the reader memory.

25 Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 12, and further comprising reading the set of
label data from the cartridge memory in response to determining that the updated
cartridge stamp stored in the cartridge memory does not match the cartridge stamp
stored in the reader memory.

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1 Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 13, and further comprising replacing the
2 cartridge stamp in the reader memory with the updated cartridge stamp from the
3 cartridge memory in response to determining that the updated cartridge stamp stored in
4 the cartridge memory does not match the cartridge stamp stored in the reader memory.

5 Claim 15 (original). The method of claim 14, and further comprising:
6 storing the set of label data in the reader memory; and,
7 replacing the set of label data in the reader memory with the updated set of label
8 data in the reader memory in response to determining that the updated cartridge stamp
9 stored in the cartridge memory does not match the cartridge stamp stored in the
10 reader memory.

11 Claim 16 (original). The method of claim 15, and further comprising replacing the set of
12 general data with an updated set of general data, wherein replacing the set of label data
13 stored in the cartridge memory with an updated set of label data is in response to
14 replacing the set of general data with an updated set of general data.

15 Claim 17 (canceled).

16
17 Claim 18 (previously presented). A data storage apparatus, comprising:
18 a tape cartridge having a cartridge memory configured to store therein a
19 cartridge stamp; and,
20 a controller, wherein:
21 the cartridge memory is further configured to store therein a set of label
22 data and,
23 the controller is configured to execute a sequence of computer-executable
24 steps to:
25 update the set of label data; and,
update the cartridge stamp in response to updating the set of
label data.

1 Claim 19 (previously presented). A data storage apparatus, comprising:

2 a tape cartridge having a cartridge memory which is configured to store therein a
3 cartridge stamp and a set of label data;

4 a first controller configured to execute a sequence of computer-executable
5 steps to:

6 update the set of label data; and,

7 update the cartridge stamp in response to updating the set of label data;

8 and,

9 a second controller configured to execute a sequence of computer-executable
10 steps to:

11 read the cartridge stamp from the cartridge memory during a first reading
12 thereof before the cartridge stamp is updated;

13 read the updated cartridge stamp from the cartridge memory during a
14 second reading thereof after the cartridge stamp is updated;

15 compare the cartridge stamp to the updated cartridge stamp; and,

16 determine that the cartridge stamp does not match the updated
17 cartridge stamp.

18 Claim 20 (original). The apparatus of claim 19, and wherein the second controller is
19 configured to execute an additional computer-executable step to read the updated set of
20 label data from the cartridge memory in response to determining that the cartridge
21 stamp does not match the updated cartridge stamp.

22 Claim 21 (original). The apparatus of claim 20, and further comprising a reader
23 memory, and wherein the second controller is configured to execute additional
24 computer-executable steps to:

25 store the set of label data in the reader memory; and,

update the set of label data stored in the reader memory in response to
determining that the cartridge stamp does not match the updated cartridge stamp.

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